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Patent  
Case No.: 56471US010

## IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

First Named Inventor: CLEMENS, TIMOTHY J.

Application No.: 10/083,092

Group Art Unit: 1712

Filed: February 26, 2002

Examiner: Keehan, Christopher M.

Title: PROTECTIVE ARTICLES

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE UNDER 37 CFR § 1.111

AND

TWO-MONTH PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIMEMail Stop Amendment  
Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION [37 CFR § 1.8(a)]	
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being:	
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NOV 27 2005	<i>Kathleen M. Murray</i>
Date	Signed by: Kathleen M. Murray

Dear Sir:

This is in response to the outstanding Office Action, dated July 8, 2005, in the above-identified application.

Under the provisions of 37 CFR § 1.136(a), Applicants petition to extend the period for filing a reply in the above-identified application. The requested extension and appropriate fee are as follows:

☒ 37 CFR § 1.17(a)(2) - Extension within second month

Please charge any fees due, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-3723.

One copy of this sheet marked duplicate is also enclosed.

Application No.: 10/083,092

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Claim 12 stands rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitahara et al. in view of Rinde et al. in further view of Neumann et al. (US 5,889,125). The Patent Office asserts in part that: Kitahara et al. disclose an article comprising a backing comprising a fluorinated polymer that is not perfluorinated, and a curable thermoset adhesive layer that is non-tacky after cure and contains only thermoset adhesive resins, specifically epoxy resins or glycidyl ether or urethane resins; Rinde et al. disclose a backing comprising a fluorinated polymer that is not perfluorinated, a thermoset adhesive on at least one unetched surface of the backing layer, a curable composition at room temperature, and curing agents selected from the group instantly claimed; and that Neumann et al. disclose a composition comprising a modified Bisphenol A epoxy resin and a curing agent, specifically, 4,7,10-trioxatridecane-1,13-diamine.

As stated above, Applicants have amended claim 1 so to require that the backing comprises a terpolymer of tetrafluoroethylene, hexafluoropropylene, and vinylidene fluoride and the adhesive comprises (chloromethyl)oxirane, 4,4'-(1-methylethylidene)bisphenol copolymer. None of Kitahara et al., Rinde et al. or alone or in combination appear to disclose or suggest the invention as now claimed in claim 1. Thus, neither of the references alone or in combination can disclose or suggest the inventions claimed in claims dependent from claim 1. For at least this reason, the above combination of references as suggested by the Patent Office does not render the invention in the above claims obvious. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the above rejection of claim 12 be withdrawn.

In view of the above, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

November 22, 2005

Date

By:

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Office of Intellectual Property Counsel  
3M Innovative Properties Company  
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